

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 AF-06 ARA-06

EA-07 NEA-10 SS-15 NSC-05 OIC-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7160

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTREAL 42

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, EAIR, ICAO

SUBJ: ICAO: ELECTION NEW SECRETARY GENERAL

REF: MONTREAL 40, MONTREAL 41

1. PER MANY TELEGRAMS AND PHONE CONVERSATIONS USREP CONTINUES TO BE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT LACK OF US INITIATIVE WITH RESPECT TO SYGSHIP. WE HAVE JUST BEEN THROUGH ELECTION OF PRESIDENT IN WHICH US DELAYS AND INACTION RESULTED IN NEAR INEFFECTIVENESS. WE ARE NOW EMBARKING ON THE SAME COURSE OF WAIT AND SEE AND USELESS LAST MINUTE REACTION TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS' INITIATIVES. ITALY REP IN DISCUSSIONS (REFTEL A) POINTED OUT THAT INDONESIA FILING WAS MADE SOMETIME AGO, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS ARE UNDERWAY, AND SUPPORT IS FIRING UP IN COUNCIL. HE CONSIDERS THAT NEXT 30 DAYS ARE CRUCIAL AND "EVEN FEBRUARY MAY BE TOO LATE" FOR VIABLE ALTERNATIVES. ("LIST OF CANDIDATES" WILL BE CIRCULATED BY BINAGHI TO COUNCIL EARLY IN MARCH, 30 DAYS AHEAD OF ELECTION.)

2. IN OPINION USREP, IN SPITE OF (OR BECAUSE OF) SHARP, EFFICIENT, POPULAR, EFFECTIVE DIPLOMACY OF LAMBERT, POSSIBLE FRENCH CANDIDACY FOR SYG IS THREAT TO US AVIATION INTERESTS IN ICAO, ESPECIALLY THE VERY IMPORTANT TECHNICAL AREA OF AIR NAV
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BUREAU. FOR EXAMPLE THE EXTREMELY CRUCIAL DECISION ON MICRO-

WAVE LANDING SYSTEM WILL BE MADE WITHIN NEXT YEAR OR TWO. WHILE FRANCE HAS NOT FILED A CANDIDATE SYSTEM, IT OBVIOUSLY WOULD BE PRO EUROPEAN SYSTEMS INSTEAD OF US AND ACCORDING TO PRESS IT IS DEVELOPING EXTREMELY ADVANCED SYSTEM OF ITS OWN FOR FUTURE USE. ON OTHER HAND, INCREASING INVOLVEMENT BY ICAO IN ECONOMIC MATTERS SUCH AS NEXT YEAR'S WORLD-WIDE CONFERENCE ON AIR TRANSPORT WOULD INDICATE THAT A MAJOR EUROPEAN STATE IN SYGSHIP WORKING WITH AIR TRANSPORT BUREAU COULD DO GREAT HARM TO US AIR TRANSPORT POLICY (IF ONE SHOULD DEVELOP).

3. AS REPORTED EARLIER, CONCERN ABOUT BARKAH OF INDONESIA HAS TO DO WITH HIS LACK OF STRENGTH IN OPPOSING OR MODIFYING UNDESIRABLE PROPOSALS (WHETHER THEY BE BUDGET OR TECHNICAL). HE HAS TOLD USREP THAT HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY APPOINT A DIRECTOR ADMINISTRATION AND IT IS GENERALLY KNOWN THAT THE SOVIET REP INSISTS UPON HAVING THAT BUREAU DIRECTORSHIP. DEPENDING ON INDIVIDUAL, THAT IN ITSELF MIGHT NOT BE HARMFUL, BUT CONSIDERING FACT THAT US FINANCE DIR RETIRING THIS YEAR WE MUST CONSIDER THE OVERALL TEAM THAT COULD EVOLVE: KOTAITE/LEBANON - PRESIDENT, BARKAH/INDONESIA - SYG, A USSR DIR ADMIN AND AN UNKNOWN FINANCE DIR. THE AIR TRANSPORT BUREAU DIRECTOR HAS BEEN VACANT FOR SOME TIME, THE LEGAL BUR DIR WILL RETIRE WITHIN YEAR OR TWO, THE ONLY US BUR DIR (AIR NAV) HAS HISTORICALLY BEEN KNOWN FOR NOT HELPING US AND BEING GENERALLY INEFFECTIVE AND INEFFICIENT. IN OPINION USREP THE PROSPECT OF SUCH A "TEAM" IS INCREDIBLE, WOULD BE EXTREMELY DETRIMENTAL WITH RESPECT TO US AVIATION INTERESTS, AND WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY CHANGE THE TECHNICAL MAKE-UP OF ICAO AND ITS PRESENT REPUTATION FOR COMPARATIVELY GOOD MANAGEMENT.

4. USREP WISHES BE ON RECORD ONCE AGAIN AS INDICATING THAT ANY US CONTROL OVER SYG ELECTION WILL HAVE TO BE INITIATED WITHIN NEXT TWO OR THREE WEEKS. ONCE LAMBERT CANDIDACY FILED ANY OTHER FILING BY US-PREFERRED CANDIDATE WILL ONLY SERVE TO SPLIT EUROPEAN GROUP WHICH MUST REPEAT MUST HANG TOGETHER IF WE ARE TO DEFEAT ANY THIRD WORLD CANDIDATE. FYI: IN ICAO COUNCIL THIS "GROUP" IS FIVE REMAINING EUROPEANS (UK, FRANCE, GERMANY, ITALY, SWEDEN) PLUS CANADA, AUSTRALIA, JAPAN AND US. END FYI

5. FYI: THE PRC REP REMINDED THE UKREP THIS WEEK THAT CHINA DOES NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH INDONESIA AND HOPES THERE WILL
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BE "AN ALTERNATIVE CANDIDATE". END FYI.
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